ENTERTAINMENT

Page 3 – Bad Bunny Makes Grammy History With Album of the Year Win

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

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SPORTS

Pages 8-9
20th Anniversary of Super Bowl in Detroit

El "miedo real" que empuja a la gente a tomar las calles

Texto y fotos por Erick Diaz Veliz

Una vez más, manifestaciones contra ICE han tomado las calles en la Península Inferior de Michigan. En esta ocasión, los principales protagonistas fueron estudiantes universitarios y de secundaria

Cientos de estudiantes habían marchado la tarde del jueves 29 de enero en la Universidad Estatal de Michigan (MSU), en East Lansing, para protestar contra las políticas migratorias. Al llegar a la estatua de Sparty, la multitud era tanta que se desbordaba hacia la pista. El vapor que salía de sus bocas reflejaba los gélidos 13 °F que marcaba el termómetro, y los letreros —sacudidos por manos cubiertas con gruesos guantes para combatir el frío— volvían a consignar: "Nadie es ilegal en tierra robada".

Hundreds of MSU students protested against federal immigration enforcement on Thursday afternoon.

La manifestación en MSU fue seguida por una serie de protestas y huelgas nacionales organizadas el viernes contra las políticas migratorias de la administración Trump y los abusos cometidos por agentes de inmigración en todo el país. Concentraciones en Grand Rapids, Ann Arbor y Detroit reunieron nuevamente a cientos de personas, a pesar de las

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The "Real Fear" Driving People into the Streets

Story and photos by Erick Diaz Veliz

Demonstrations have once again taken to the streets against ICE across Michigan's Lower Peninsula. This time, the main protagonists were university and high school students.

Hundreds of students began marching on Thursday afternoon, January 29, at Michigan State University in East Lansing, protesting immigration policies as they made their way to the statue of Sparty, where the crowd spilled over onto the road. The steam rising from their chants reflected the freezing 13 °F shown on the thermometer, and the signs—shaken by thick gloves warming their hands—once again declared, "No one is illegal in stolen land."

The demonstration at MSU was followed by a series of national protests and strikes organized on Friday against the Trump administration's immigration policies and abuses committed by immigration agents across the country. Rallies in Grand Rapids, Ann Arbor, and Detroit drew hundreds one more time despite the frigid temperatures.

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The Bagley-West Vernor Historic District Is Now Listed in the National Register of Historic Places

The Detroit City Council Historic Designation Advisory Board (HDAB) recently announced that the Bagley-West Vernor Historic District is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places!

The district spans much of the commercial core of the city's popular Mexicantown neighborhood and includes many of the well-known eateries and other landmarks along these two streets. The National Register is America's official list of places worthy of preservation.

The district is significant in the areas of Hispanic Ethnic Heritage, Social History, and Commerce, and includes contributing resources dating from 1920-1975. Property owners will now be able to take advantage of historic preservation tax credits as they rehabilitate their buildings!

This listing is a part of the Latinx History Project and a product of over three years of work. In addition to the National Register listing, this project also produced a historic context study that dives into the rich history different Latinx communities have contributed to Detroit for over a century.

Listing in the National Register of Historic Place is honorific, meaning there is no formal protection of the buildings against demolition. However, as noted above, National Register status opens the possibility of historic tax credits (state and federal) for property owners on eligible rehabilitations! This listing is also a formal recognition of this history and its importance to Detroit!

The project team extends a huge thank you to the many members of the community who contributed and supported the project including the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office, District 6 Councilmember Gabriela Santiago-Romero, Mexicantown Community Development Corporation, Voces: Southwest Detroit History and the countless others who turned out and showed up for the life of this project!

This work was supported in part by an Underrepresented Communities Grant from the Historic Preservation Fund administered by the National Park Service, Department of Interior. This material was produced with assistance from the Historic Preservation Fund, administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

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MANA de Metro Detroit 2026 Scholarship Applications are Now Open

MANA de Metro Detroit is thrilled to announce that our scholarship application is now open. As of 2025, our organization has awarded 187 scholarships to Latina students pursuing a higher education or trade/vocational education. Our mission is to empower our scholarship recipients and improve their quality of life through education, leadership development, and advocacy.

Our scholarship program has supported MANA scholars in covering the cost of tuition, books and supplies, transportation and housing needs.

This year we are awarding six different types of scholarships to qualified Latina high school students, current Latina college students, as well as those attending a trade or vocation school/programs and who reside in the Metro Detroit area.

Each scholarship award is in the amount of $2,000.00. The scholarships are combined in one application. Applicants that meet the requirements may apply for one or more scholarships. However, if selected, they will only be awarded one $2,000.00 scholarship.

Please visit the MANA of Metro Detroit website: https://www.manademetrodetroit.com/#scholarships, to view information about each scholarship and complete the application. The scholarships are:

MANA de Metro Detroit General Scholarship

- Carmen Muñoz Entrepreneurship Scholarship
- Monica L. Martinez Leadership Scholarship
- Dr. Ellen Ochoa STEM Scholarship
- Gloria Rosas Teacher Education Scholarship
- Eva Garza Dewaelsche Community Service Scholarship

Previous scholarship recipients may re-apply if they meet the eligibility criteria and submit all required application material. The deadline for returning all applications electronically is no later than Wednesday, April 1, 2026.

If you have any questions, please email us at scholarship@manademetrodetroit.com.

On behalf of MANA de Metro Detroit and members of the MANA Scholarship committee, we are thankful for the generosity of our donors and sponsors that make it possible for us to provide yearly scholarships. In addition, we appreciate everyone's support in ensuring that the scholarship information is distributed widely in our Metro Detroit communities, local high schools and universities.

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MANA de Metro Detroit
Now Accepting
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All Applications are due
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MANA de Metro Detroit General Scholarship
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Gloria Rosas Teacher Education Scholarship
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Covers Books & Supplies
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Scholarship recipients

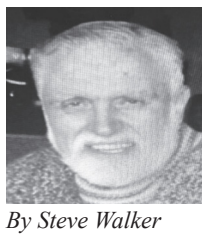
Seated: Rocio Contreras, Co-Chair Scholarship Committee and Stephanie Lopez-Gilmore, MANA President

First row: Leslie Almanza-Martinez, Felicitas Gonzalez Membrillo, Kelia Subillaga-Orellana, Andrea Cuevas-Garcia, Jannay Abimeley Gavia, Ashley Dominguez Correa, Melany Sanchez-Martinez, Yoana Arreaga Bartolon, Valentina del Valle Martinez.

Last row (directly infront of MANA backdrop): Andrea Angulo -Villaseñor, Melanie Calvillo, Ashley Romo, Ximena Gonzalez, Alejandra Padilla-Miguel, Elizabeth Garcia, Esmeralda Hernandez, Deysi Joven Gonzalez, Arely Aguirre-Pacheco, Laura V. De Luna, Marisol Angel Gamboa, Chelsi Pizarro-Gonzalez.

Not Pictured: Carolina Angulo & Dayana A. Franco

Meet Darrin Camilleri: Latino Legislative Leader



By Steve Walker

State Senator Darrin Camilleri is in his first term in the Michigan State Senate and he is already the third highest ranking Democrat (Assistant Majority Leader) in the Chamber. The two Democrats higher than him will be leaving the Legislature this year, so if he can get himself reelected this year, and if Democrats can maintain control of the State Senate in the November election (which seems highly likely at this moment), he could become the first Latino to ever lead the Michigan State Senate.

Darrin's mother's maiden name was Quiroz and the family hails originally from Monterrey, Mexico. Darrin's father graduated from Holy Redeemer High School in Southwest Detroit. The family eventually settled in Brownstown in southern Wayne County.

Darrin received his bachelor's degree from Kalamazoo College where he got involved with the College Young Democrats. He later interned with Congresswoman Debbie Dingell and State Senator David Knezek.

After Darrin received his teaching certificate, he taught at Voyager College Prep High School near Michigan and Livernois in Southwest Detroit. He first got elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 2016 and moved up to the State Senate in 2022.

Darrin represents the 4th District in the State Senate which covers most of downriver Wayne County and parts of central Wayne County, such as Taylor. In the State Senate, Darrin serves on the Education Committee, the Energy Committee, the Appropriations Committee, and as Vice Chair of the Labor Committee. On the Appropriations Committee, Darrin serves as Chair of the Pre-K-12 School Aid Budget Subcommittee where he secured the most funding ever for at-risk students and bilingual education. His Subcommittee also initiated free school meals for all students.

Darrin is sponsoring Senate Bills 246 and 247 to overhaul waste regulations in Michigan and he has worked hard to create a statewide Grade Separation Program to improve road and rail safety.

Most importantly for Latinos, Darrin has created the Michigan Voting Rights Act and is its chief sponsor. The current U.S. Supreme Court is in the process of eviscerating the current national Voting Rights Act, and this proposed law would give Michigan an even stronger version to protect citizens' voting rights. In particular, it would mandate more bilingual election materials and protect limited English-speaking voters.

Photo courtesy: darrincamilleri.com

Darrin got married in the last year and a half and he held his bachelor's party in San Antonio, Texas.

Steve Walker has been active in politics since 1962. He is a retired Political Science professor from Wayne County Community College, a member of the state Democratic Hispanic Latino Caucus and a long-time treasurer of the Wayne County Spanish Speaking Democrats and contributing writer for EL CENTRAL.

Bad Bunny Makes Grammy History With Album of the Year Win

By Juanita Zuniga

Bad Bunny made GRAMMY history on Sunday night, becoming the first artist to win Album of the Year with a fully Spanish-language album at the 68th Annual GRAMMY's in Los Angeles, California.

It was a big night for Latinos across genres; from first time winners like Lefty Gunplay, CA7RIEL & PACO AMOROSO who pushed boundaries with bold music statements this past year and were rightfully rewarded while now music veterans Carin Leon and Natalia LaFourcade continue to hold down their respective genres.

Still, it was Bad Bunny who left with one of the most anticipated and prestigious awards of the evening.

The Puerto Rican superstar started off the evening with six nominations including Album of the Year, Record of the Year , Best Música Urbana Album, Best Global Music Performance, Best Album Cover, and Song of the Year. Ultimately, he swept up three awards for Best Música Urbana Album, Best Global Music Performance, and last and best of all, Album of the year.

CA7RIEL & PACO AMOROSO at the 68th Annual GRAMMY Awards.

In his acceptance speech, for Best Música Urbana Album, Bad Bunny addressed the current political climate rippling through our nation and delivered a message in support of immigrant communities. "Before I thank God, ICE out," he said. "We're not savages. We're not animals. We are humans and we are Americans."

Since day one, Bad Bunny built his career on being 100% himself in his music and in his politics. He has never shied away from using his platform to speak out against injustices. He ended his speech urging the GRAMMY audience and his industry comrades to "fight hate with love."

At the center of it all, Debi Tirar Mas Fotos now stands as the first album 100% in Spanish to receive Album of the Year, making that a first in GRAMMY history.

This being the first all-Spanish album to receive such honor Bad Bunny still had time to inspire us all by uplifting Puerto Rico and empowering others with his similar dreams while also dedicating this win to immigrants and the many generations before and to come. "I want to dedicate this award to all the people that had to leave their homeland, their country, to follow their dreams, " he said.

This win follows Bad Bunny's first Album of the Year Nomination in 2023 for Un Verano Sin Ti (UVST), an album that redefined not only global pop music but Latin music's presence in mainstream media. UVST was the first all Spanish-language album nominated for the highly celebrated category.

Bad Bunny and his three awards from the evening via facebook

Bad Bunny celebrating backstage at the 68th GRAMMY Awards

Lefty Gunplay at the 2026 GRAMMY Awards via Instagram

In recent months, Bad Bunny has headlined multiple big cities all over Latin America and soon enough Asia and Europe for his recent tour; even hosting a 30 day weekend-to-weekend residency exclusively to Puerto Rico. Yet, he refused to add any continental U.S. dates, a move that has been widely interpreted as an act of solidarity with his Latino and Immigrant fans given current political tensions around ICE.

And in just a few days, he takes on one of the world's biggest stages: the Super Bowl on Sunday, February 8. While there is speculation Puerto-Rican reggaetonera Young Miko may be a special guest, no official confirmation has been made. Stay tuned!

Juanita Zuniga is a graduate of Kalamazoo College with degrees in Anthropology, Sociology, and English. She was born and raised in SW Detroit and still resides there today. She is passionate about her community and hopes to serve it through writing. In her spare time. Juanita is a Latin history and music enthusiast. She is also a Cancer Sun, Libra Moon, and Cancer Rising.

This article was made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

Mexican Consulate in Detroit Unveils 2026 Agenda

By Estefania Arellano-Bermudez

On Thursday, January 29, the Mexican Consulate in Detroit held a briefing to present its 2026 agenda. The Consulate outlined the strategy centered on economic cooperation, inclusive services, and cultural outreach for the Mexican community residing in Michigan and northern Ohio.

The presentation, led by Consul of Mexico in Detroit Roberto Nicolas Vazquez, featured updates by multiple departments and highlighted the consulate's role for thousands of Mexican nationals across the region.

Of note, were the economic briefings. Mexico was the United States top trading partner in 2025, with reciprocal trade of over $700 billion. The state of Michigan was Mexico's third largest U. S. trading partner, with $84 billion last year. Beyond economics, regular consular services remain the consulate's main focus.

"We are here to serve the (Mexican community) and we understand how important it is to acquire necessary documents," said Vazquez.

Services include processing of passports, consular IDs, voter registration credentials (INE), birth certificate retrieval, and dual nationality processing. For adults over the age of 55 years, who face barriers in scheduling a digital appointment, the consulate will provide assistance without an appointment.

In order to promote even further inclusionary services, the consulate will provide non-binary passports and updated birth certificates reflecting a person's recognized name and gender in order to serve the LGBTQ+ community.

Another major initiative is the "Consulate on Wheels" program – not to be confused with the mobile consulate. This program brings consular services directly to communities across the region that find travel to the consulate building too difficult.

"On social media, we offer workshops on mental health in collaboration with Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM)," said Yoselin Serrano, Community Affairs.

In addition to this, there will be vaccination clinics, nutrition classes, food distribution, and health screenings offered in Detroit and Cleveland. Education such as middle school, high school, and English as a Second Language will continue to be offered.

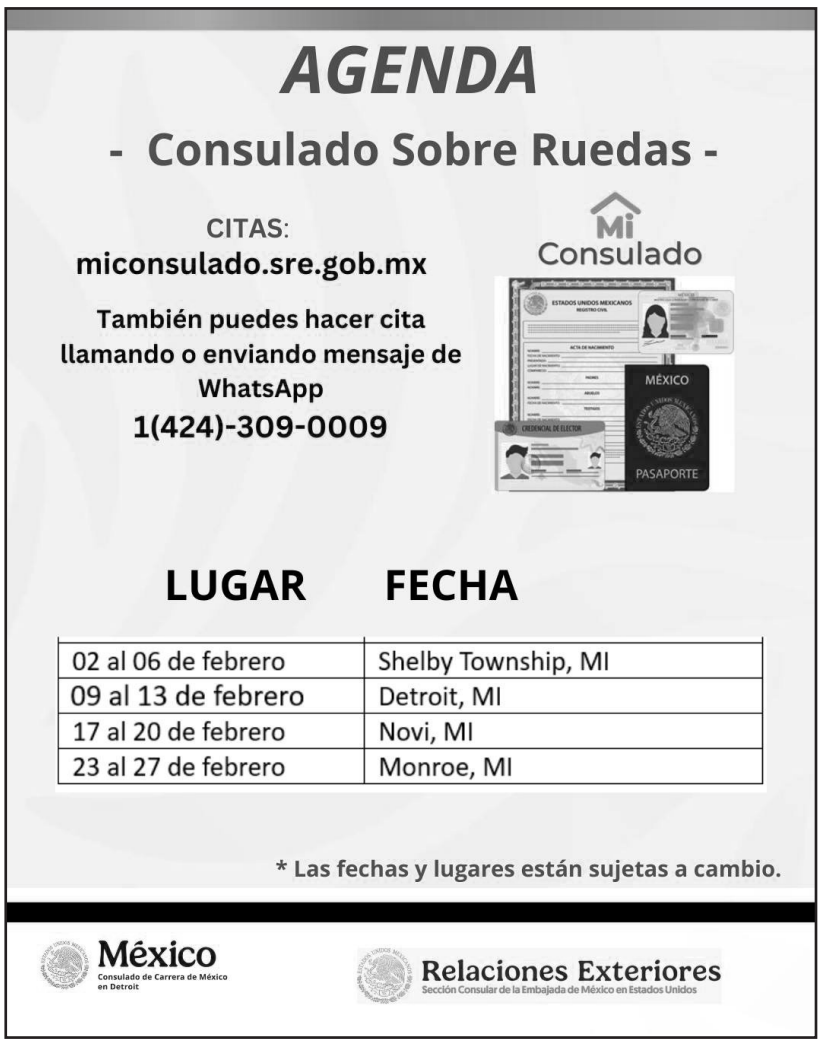
"Our goal is to promote Mexican culture abroad," said Marlon Lara of the Culture Department.

Cultural events are also part of the consulate's outreach efforts. Free, family-friendly events are planned for 2026 including Dia del Nino y del Libro, Dia de Los Muertos (an event organized in conjunction with the Detroit Institute of Arts), a week of migrant cinema, and the annual celebration of Mexican Independence.

As part of consul services, Daniel Aguado Ornelas, Consul Adscrito, outlined programs for legal assistance, detainee support, aid to victims of human trafficking, and repatriation. The consul has planned a Legal Advice Week, which will have free consultations on immigration, civil, criminal, and labor issues.

"An immigrant – regardless of their status – has certain rights," Ornello said.

For more information about the consulate's scheduling such as upcoming events and available services, please visit their social media pages. In case of emergency, contact the 24/7 line at 520-623-7874.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Estefania Arellano-Bermudez is a Latina freelance writer living in metro Detroit. She is a regular contributor to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News and a member of Planet Detroit's Neighborhood Reporting Lab.

This article and photos were made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

El "miedo real"

Continuado de la página 1

temperaturas bajo cero.

El presidente de Culturas de las Razas Unidas (CRU), organización latina en MSU que lideró la marcha del jueves , Rafael Gordillo Serrano, dijo a EL CENTRAL que esta movilización es una forma de decir "basta" a las acciones de los agentes de inmigración y que desde hace tiempo querían alzar la voz por la comunidad inmigrante desde MSU.

Con 19 años de edad —dos como estudiante de MSU y diez viviendo en Estados Unidos— Gordillo afirma que el miedo a ICE "no era algo en lo que se pensara tanto". El y sus padres llegaron desde Guatemala y son residentes permanentes, legales, pero ahora ese temor va más allá de cualquier documento legal. "Cualquiera que se vea latino como nosotros en este momento es un objetivo. Todos somos vulnerables, ya seamos ciudadanos naturalizados o residentes. A esa gente (los agentes de inmigración) no les importa", dijo.

La mañana del martes 27 de enero, agentes de ICE arrestaron a cuatro personas en una parada de autobús cerca de varias escuelas del Distrito Escolar Comunitario de Ypsilanti, que, según MLive, incluyen la escuela multilingüe Ypsilanti Puentes, la Washtenaw International High School y la Ypsilanti International Elementary School. Y aunque un portavoz de ICE declaró a medios de comunicación que las escuelas locales no son objetivos, tres de los detenidos eran padres que esperaban recoger a sus hijos en una parada del autobús escolar. De acuerdo con Michigan Advance, se encuentran detenidos en el Centro de Procesamiento North Lake, en Baldwin, Michigan.

Gordillo creció en Ann Arbor, no muy lejos de Ypsilanti. "En la escuela, ICE no era algo en lo que pensarás mucho. Y ver lo que está pasando en Ypsilanti, ahora mismo, tan cerca de mi casa, es una locura pensar qué haría si me pasara a mí. Es muy difícil aceptar que las cosas han cambiado y que el miedo ahora es real", expresó.

Encabezado por la senadora de Michigan Stephanie Chang y un puñado de demócratas, el Senado de Michigan organizó una audiencia pública —principalmente a través del Comité de Derechos Civiles, Poder Judicial y Seguridad Pública— sobre un paquete de tres proyectos de ley del Senado (SB 508, SB 509 y SB 510) y la Resolución del Senado 86, diseñados para limitar las acciones de los agentes federales de inmigración en el estado. El paquete prohibiría la aplicación de leyes migratorias en ciertos lugares, restringiría la colaboración entre personal estatal y agentes de inmigración, y reduciría el uso de cubrebocas o coberturas faciales por parte de dichos agentes.

El senador republicano Jim Runestad, la única voz de oposición en la sala, expresó su apoyo a ICE y sostuvo tensos debates con Chang. El republicano cuestionó la idea de que las personas detenidas por agentes de inmigración sean necesariamente trabajadores esenciales o testigos inocentes en tribunales, calificando ese argumento como "ridículo a simple vista". "No creo que haya una sola persona en Lansing o en el estado de Michigan que tenga un problema con la inmigración legal. Esto se trata estrictamente de personas que están aquí ilegalmente", afirmó Runestad.

Durante el debate, Runestad se mostró frustrado por no poder refutar directamente los testimonios y, al concluir sus comentarios, calificó la audiencia como un "juicio canguro". El republicano argumentó que los agentes de inmigración deberían cubrirse el rostro debido a "ataques atroces" en contra de ellos y para proteger a sus familias.

A lo largo de la sesión, abogados, líderes comunitarios y defensores de los derechos de los inmigrantes ofrecieron testimonios emotivos y detallados en apoyo a las propuestas.

Gabriela Santiago-Romero, miembro del Concejo Municipal de Detroit, respaldó los proyectos de ley, argumentando que miembros vulnerables de la comunidad han abandonado sus rutinas diarias por miedo a la presencia de agentes de inmigración. "Estoy aquí para enfatizar el miedo real, los impactos reales que están ocurriendo en Detroit, en todo el estado y en todo el país, y para dejar muy claro que ICE y los agentes federales de inmigración no están haciendo que nuestras comunidades sean más seguras. Este no es un tema de inmigrantes indocumentados contra ciudadanos", dijo Santiago-Romero.

Chang, quien patrocina el SB 509, espera que los proyectos pronto sean sometidos a votación y enviados al pleno del Senado para su consideración en una futura audiencia.

Para Iván Díaz, candidato al Senado de Michigan, esto es algo que el Senado debió haber hecho cuando tuvo control demócrata entre 2023 y 2024. "Me complace ver que finalmente están tomando acción. También me gustaría ver otros cambios, como la eventual aprobación del proyecto de ley Drive SAFE y la abolición y prohibición de los acuerdos 287(g) a nivel local", declaró el candidato a EL CENTRAL.

El viernes, cerca del campus de la Universidad de Michigan, unas 200 personas entre estudiantes y residentes marcharon contra ICE por las calles de Ann Arbor. Entre ellas estaba Antonella Sara, estudiante de 20 años de U of M, quien habló con EL CENTRAL sobre sus temores como inmigrante desde hace ocho años.

"Migrar no es fácil. Alteró mucho mi vida y definitivamente me tomó mucho tiempo adaptarme", dijo Sara. "El miedo no es nuevo y ha existido desde hace mucho tiempo, y aunque últimamente ha sido más fuerte, duele que solo cuando personas blancas son asesinadas por ICE la mayoría finalmente salga a las calles con sus carteles alrededor de la cuadra".

El miedo no ha sido ajeno a los estudiantes de secundaria, muchos de los cuales tienen familiares o amigos que enfrentan deportación o ellos mismos enfrentan acciones de control migratorio que los afectan directamente. Y aunque tres de los estudiantes de Western International High School arrestados por ICE ya han sido liberados, cientos de estudiantes de Cass Tech High School en Detroit abandonaron sus clases el viernes como parte de una protesta coordinada a favor de los inmigrantes, coreando consignas como "Los inmigrantes son bienvenidos aquí", desafiando las gélidas temperaturas. Acompañando estas manifestaciones, al menos 200 personas se reunieron con pancartas y banderas en 7 Mile y Telegraph, protestando con las mismas consignas a un costado de la carretera.

Líderes comunitarios, incluido el Dr. Wendell Anthony, presidente de la filial de Detroit de la NAACP, también instaron a medidas de rendición de cuentas, como recortar nuevos fondos para ICE, exigir que los agentes usen cámaras corporales y poner fin a la inmunidad federal.

"Cada persona, independientemente de su raza, etnia, estatus migratorio o creencia política, merece sentirse segura, protegida y tratada con dignidad bajo la ley. Este no es un tema partidista; es un tema de derechos humanos. La confianza pública en nuestras instituciones depende de una aplicación justa y humana de la ley, y debemos exigir rendición de cuentas cuando esa confianza se rompe", afirmó Mary Carmen Muñoz, directora ejecutiva de Latin Americans for Social and Economic Development (LASED).

Report from the Detroit Policy Conference:

Detroit Leaders Advocating for Education Say Michigan's Education Crisis Is a Quiet Emergency

By Amber Ogden. Photo provided by Detroit Regional Chamber

This year's Detroit Policy Conference took place on January 29th at the new Hudson's building, a symbol of Detroit's economic comeback. Inside, however, a main focus was on a more fundamental issue. Stephen Henderson opened the panel entitled "The House is on Fire", Solving Michigan's Education Crises by asking, "Is the house on fire?". The metaphor reflects a state facing plummeting literacy rates and a vanishing talent pool, but for those on the front lines, the reality is more nuanced.

"The house might be on fire, but the city is not," joked Senator Sarah Anthony (D-Lansing), Appropriations Chair.

In a raw, data-driven discussion of Michigan's education and workforce systems, Anthony was joined by Jeff Donofrio of Business Leaders for Michigan, Greg Handel of the Detroit Regional Chamber, and Donald Taylor of the University of Detroit Mercy (UDM) to issue a collective warning that Michigan isn't just facing a momentary disaster, but a "slow boil" decline 25 years in the making, and the time to turn off the heat is running out.

Jeff Donofrio questioned whether the "fire" metaphor truly captured the problem. He said a fire calls for quick action, but a "slow boil" – like the frog in a pot of hot water – can go unnoticed until it is too late.

"It's maybe not that the house is on fire, but it's been a slow boil, right? And we've seen ourselves slide backwards," Donofrio said.

He noted that while Michigan made strides in recovering from the Great Recession from 2007 to 2009, the fundamental pillars of its human capital have eroded.

According to the 2024 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), often called the "Nation's Report Card," Michigan's fourth-graders rank 44th nationally in reading proficiency. Only 24% of Michigan fourth-graders were considered proficient in reading in 2024, significantly below the national average of 30%.

"We are now a bottom 10 state for education," Donofrio warned. "Mississippi is a top 10 state in literacy... the states that we always said, 'Oh, they're never going to compete with us.' They have said enough, and they're changing (their) trajectory."

Greg Handel from the Detroit Regional Chamber connected the drop in education to Michigan's shrinking economy. He said that in today's world, a state's average income closely matches its level of education.

"We're seeing this fall of the per capita income," Handel said.

He noted that Michigan's ranking has dropped from 34th to 38th, and now to 40th, nationally, according to the Chamber's 2025 State of Education and Talent report.

"When we hit 40, somehow round numbers seemed to capture people's imagination," Handel said.

"When people understand there's a problem, I think it was a wake-up call. There is no such thing as a state that is not highly educated or a region that's not highly educated that is prosperous."

Senator Anthony said the main issue is not just funding, since Michigan has recently invested record amounts in K-12 education. Instead, she pointed to a lack of "policy stamina" and a "policy pendulum" in Lansing that swings back and forth every four to eight years.

"If we can use our precious financial resources as a state to actually move the needle on college access and attainment, we should do that, regardless of if we're on the Republican or Democratic side," Anthony said.

She stressed that this inconsistency affects Black and Brown communities, similar to Southwest Detroit, the most.

"When I look at things through a racial equity lens, I know who gets left behind: Black and Brown young people, and those who would be the first in their family to go to college."

State data from the Michigan Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) support her concern. While Michigan's overall high school graduation rate reached a record 82.8% for the Class of 2024, the rates for Black and Hispanic students remain at 73.1% and 78.9%, respectively.

Anthony highlighted Governor Whitmer's "Sixty by 30" goal, which aims for 60% of Michigan adults to have a post-secondary credential by 2030, as the "North Star" needed to break the cycle. Michigan is now at about 51.8%, up from 45% five years ago.

The results are visible in the 2026 Wall Street Journal/College Pulse rankings, where UDM jumped to No. 36 in the nation, up from No. 43 last year. Even more impressive for the Southwest Detroit community is UDM's No. 27 national ranking in social mobility. This highlights UDM's role as an economic engine for a community often overlooked by systemic barriers. By successfully transitioning students from low-income backgrounds into competitive professional roles, the university provides a plan to address the "talent pool" crisis that is working.

Taylor said Detroit Mercy has seen three consecutive years of record new-student enrollments, the highest since U of D and Mercy merged in 1990.

"I think you're only limited by your imagination," Taylor said, pointing to strong partnerships and guaranteed internships that have led to high employment after graduation.

The panelists agreed that the biggest barrier to college is not the financial aid office, but the marketing.

"Tuition is not the barrier to higher education that many people believe," Taylor said.

He pointed to the Michigan Achievement Scholarship, which can provide up to $27,500 over five years for students attending private nonprofit colleges such as UDM.

If Michigan improves its own talent pipeline, it still faces a reputation problem. Donofrio said his board members, who influence about 40% of Michigan's economy, find it harder to recruit top executives from outside the state.

"It's about attracting people to the state," Donofrio explained.

Even with Michigan's growth in scholarships, a significant policy challenge remains with dual enrollment, which helps students transition earlier from high school to postsecondary education while still in high school. While Indiana has dual enrollment rates close to 50%, Michigan is stuck at just 15% for community college students.

Handel explained that Michigan's funding formula penalizes high schools for success.

"Michigan has a huge financial disincentive. If a high school student takes a college course, the local school district often has to foot the bill from their own per-pupil foundation allowance. They are essentially paying to lose their own students."

As the session closed, the panelists were asked for advice on how Michigan's next governor could ensure the "house" doesn't burn down. The answer was unanimous to stay the course.

"Continue to fund Reconnect first," urged Senator Anthony.

Michigan Reconnect is a state program offering tuition-free, in-state community college to eligible adults aged 25 and older, enabling them to earn associate degrees or skills certificates. Since 2021, more than 200,000 Michiganders have applied.

"If a new (state) administration doesn't 'own' the scholarship, they try to rebrand it or cut it. When that happens, the student is the one who gets left behind."

*****

Amber Ogden is a freelance writer born and raised in Detroit. She has published work in Forbes, Chevy in the D, Model D, and Rachel Ray Every Day. She enjoys art and eating through the city in her free time.

This article and photos were made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

The "Real Fear"

Continued from page 1

The president of Culturas de las Razas Unidas (CRU), a Latino organization at MSU, Rafael Gordillo Serrano, told EL CENTRAL that this mobilization is a way of saying "enough" to the actions of immigration agents and that they had long wanted to raise their voices for the immigrant community from MSU.

At 19 years old—two years as an MSU student and ten living in the U.S.—Gordillo says that fear of ICE "wasn't something you thought about that much." He and his parents arrived from Guatemala and are legal permanent residents, but now that fear goes beyond any legal paperwork. "Anyone who looks Latino like us right now is a target. We're all vulnerable, whether we're naturalized citizens or residents. Those people (immigration agents) don't care," he said.

On the morning of Tuesday, January 27, ICE agents arrested four individuals at a bus stop near several Ypsilanti Community Schools campuses, which, according to MLive, include Ypsilanti Puentes Multilingual School, Washtenaw International High School, and Ypsilanti International Elementary School. And although an ICE spokesperson stated in a release that local schools are not targets, three of those arrested were parents who were detained while waiting to pick up their children at a school bus stop. They are being held at the North Lake Processing Center in Baldwin, Mich., Michigan Advance reported.

Gordillo grew up in Ann Arbor, not far from Ypsilanti. "In school, ICE wasn't something you thought about that much. And seeing what's happening in Ypsilanti, right now, so close to my home, it's crazy to think what I would do if that happened to me. It's very hard to accept that things have changed and that fear is real now," Gordillo said.

Led by Michigan State Senator Stephanie Chang and a handful of Democrats, the Michigan Senate held a public hearing—primarily through the Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety Committee—on a package of three Senate bills (SB 508, SB 509, and SB 510) and Senate Resolution 86 designed to limit the actions of federal immigration agents in the state. The package would prohibit the enforcement of immigration laws in certain locations, restrict collaboration between state personnel and immigration agents, and reduce the use of face coverings by those agents.

Republican Senator Jim Runestad, the sole opposition in the room, expressed support for ICE and engaged in tense exchanges with Chang. He questioned the idea that those detained by immigration agents are necessarily essential workers or innocent courtroom witnesses, calling the argument "ridiculous on its face." "I don't think there's a person in Lansing or in the state of Michigan who has a problem with legal immigration. This is strictly about people who are here illegally," Runestad said.

During the debate, Runestad grew frustrated at not being able to directly rebut testimony and, at the close of his remarks, called the hearing a "kangaroo court." The Republican argued that immigration agents should cover their faces due to "atrocious attacks" against them and to protect their families.

Throughout the session, attorneys, community leaders, and immigrant rights advocates delivered emotional and detailed testimony in support of the proposals.

Gabriela Santiago-Romero, a member of the Detroit City Council, backed the bills, arguing that vulnerable community members have abandoned their daily routines out of fear of immigration agents' presence. "I'm here to emphasize the real fear, the real impacts that are happening in Detroit, across the state, and across the country, and to make it very clear that ICE and federal immigration agents are not making our communities any safer. This is not an undocumented immigrant versus citizens issue." Santiago-Romero said.

Chang, who sponsors SB 509, hopes the bills will soon be voted on and sent to the full Senate for consideration at a future hearing.

For Ivan Diaz, a candidate for the Michigan Senate, this is something the Senate should have done when it had Democratic control between 2023 and 2024. "I'm pleased to see that they are finally taking action. I would also like to see other changes, such as the eventual passage of the Drive SAFE bill and the abolition and prohibition of 287(g) agreements at the local level," said the candidate to EL CENTRAl.

On Friday, near the University of Michigan campus, about 200 people marched and chanted against ICE through the streets of Ann Arbor. Among them was Antonella Sara, a U of M student, who told EL CENTRAL about her fears as an immigrant of eight years.

"Migrating is not easy. It disrupted my life a lot, and it definitely took a long time to adapt," Sara said. "The fear isn't new and has been around for a long time, and although it's been stronger lately, it hurts that only when white people are killed by ICE does the majority finally take to the streets with their signs around the block."

Fear had also reached high school students, where they have family members or friends facing deportation or immigration enforcement that impacts them directly. And although three of the Western International High School students arrested by ICE have already been released, hundreds of Detroit students at Cass Tech High School walked out of their classes on Friday as part of a coordinated protest against federal immigration enforcement actions, chanting slogans like "Immigrants are welcome here" and "No justice, no peace," defying the freezing temperatures. (See accompanying story on page 7). At these demonstrations, at least 200 persons joined with signs and banners at 7 Mile and Telegraph, protesting on the side of the road.

Community leaders, including Dr. Wendell Anthony, president of the NAACP Detroit Branch, also urged accountability measures such as cutting new funding for ICE, requiring agents to wear body cameras, and ending federal immunity.

"Every person, regardless of race, ethnicity, immigration status, or political belief, deserves to feel safe, protected, and treated with dignity under the law. This is not a partisan issue; it is a human rights issue. Public trust in our institutions depends on fair and humane enforcement of the law, and we must insist on accountability when that trust is broken," stated Mary Carmen Munoz, executive director for Latin Americans for Social and Economic Development (LASED).

Erick Diaz Veliz is a Peruvian reporter based in Lansing, Michigan. He has documents and reports on cultural, social, and political issues in Peru and Michigan as a freelancer. Erick was born in Lima, Peru, and has been living in Lansing since 2018.

This article and photos were made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

“In the Cold, We Chose to Be Heard”

By Valery Ortiz Sanchez

DETROIT — On Friday, January 30th, the sound of footsteps echoed through the halls of Cass Technical High School as students made a collective decision to leave their classrooms and step into the cold. What they carried with them wasn’t just signs or chants, it was fear, anger, pride, and a deep sense of responsibility.

The student-led walkout was organized to protest the actions of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and to draw attention to how immigration enforcement directly impacts students and families within the Cass Tech community.

Senior Hailee Hallmann, a youth organizer and the walkout’s lead organizer, said the protest wasn’t about disruption, it was about being heard.

“Even if the school doesn’t implement changes immediately, protests are built on one another,” Hallmann said. “This walkout shows that we care. It shows that we’re angry, and that we need the school and the system to do more.”

Students gathered outside despite freezing temperatures, standing shoulder to shoulder as they held signs and shared chants. For many, the issue was deeply personal.

“These are people we see every day,” Hallmann said. “Friends. Classmates. People we sit next to in class. Knowing that it could be anyone, it’s terrifying.”

Support for the students extended beyond their peers. Mrs. Wiley, a tenth-grade English teacher at Cass Tech and a longtime community organizer, said the walkout reflected something essential about student leadership.

A student holds up their sign, which reads “Fight ignorance, not immigrants.” Photo credit to Charlie Schmitt

“Students have a right to organize. They have a right to agency. They have a right to speak truth to power,” Wiley said. “My job is to help them understand how to navigate these spaces safely because being an activist and being an organizer are not the same thing.”

Wiley also spoke about the fear many families live with daily. While Detroit Public Schools Community District operates as a sanctuary district, meaning ICE cannot enter school grounds without district permission, she said that protection doesn’t erase the anxiety students carry with them.

“Parents are scared to drive their kids to school because they don’t want to risk being detained,” she said. “Students are worried about what happens once they leave campus. That fear follows them into the classroom.”

Despite the heaviness of the issue, Wiley said she felt pride watching students step into leadership roles.

“You should be able to be kids,” she said. “You shouldn’t have to worry about ICE. But I’m proud of you for organizing even though I hate that this is the reality you’re growing up in.”

The students participated in the walkout with a mix of determination and urgency, knowing the protest was about more than just leaving class; it was about making their voices heard on issues that directly affected their friends, families, and community.

Many students, like Hailee Hallmann, organized the walkout to show that even if immediate change doesn’t happen, ongoing action is necessary.

Hailee Hallmann leads the crowd in front of Little Caesars Arena.

Hallmann said. The students carried signs, chanted, and stood together in the freezing cold, aware that ICE’s presence still affects families outside of school grounds.

Teachers like Mrs. Wiley guided students in understanding their rights, helping them navigate the risks of activism and reminding them that their safety and dignity mattered.

For students, the walkout was a chance to take action, to share their stories, and to send a message that fear would not silence them, a message that their voices, no matter how young, could demand accountability and change.

For Hallmann, the walkout was not meant to be a one-time event, but a spark.

“I hope people see this and feel inspired to get involved,” she said. “If students can organize a walkout in the freezing cold for something this important, then others can step up too.”

As students returned to class later that day, organizers said the walkout marked the beginning not the end of their efforts. More than anything, they hoped their message would linger.

“No matter how young you are, no matter where you are from, you have a voice and you should use it,” Hallmann said. “If you look at the backbone of every political movement that has ever happened, students have been the backbone whether it was the civil rights movement or now. We will always be there.”

Valery Ortiz Sanchez is currently an 11th grader at Cass Technical Highschool. One of the youth organizers of the protest. Photo credit to Charlie Schmitt, a youth filmmaker and one of the protest‘s student organizers.

De la oficina del Tesorero del Condado de Wayne,
Eric R. Sabree

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¡Estamos aquí para ayudarle!

Journalism Camp 2026

Applications are now open for our two-week summer camp for high school students. Learn from professional journalists and have your story published!

Yesterday's news of journalists arrested for covering anti-ICE demonstrations is a deeply concerning issue for us at The Detroit Writing Room. Since 2020, we've trained high school students in interviewing, researching, storytelling and writing during our summer Journalism Camp.

We tell students that they have a First Amendment right as student journalists to report the truth and document stories about their communities, and we emphasize that journalists work to hold the government accountable for their actions.

We agree with the Society of Professional Journalists' statement: "Journalists are not the story—they are the eyes and ears of the public. Arresting them for covering the news is a dangerous step toward eliminating government accountability and weakening democracy. A democracy cannot function when journalists face handcuffs for bearing witness."

The Detroit Writing Room was founded by a journalist, and the mission of our nonprofit arm Coaching Detroit Forward is to coach the next generation of writers, photographers and creatives. We want students to learn the fundamentals from professionals and carry on the important work of documenting our communities and capturing history.

Students interested in writing and reporting for the public good are invited to join The Detroit Writing Room for journalism camp this July.

We are more proud than ever to announce that our Journalism Camp will be returning this summer, and over 30 local and national journalists will continue to share their expertise and skills with our youth.

The Detroit Writing Room's 2026 Journalism Camp in partnership with Coaching Detroit Forward and Planet Detroit will be held this July at Wayne State University's Journalism Institute for Media Diversity. Students will learn from over 30 Detroit Writing Room coaches and award-winning journalists who have worked at publications from *The New York Times* to *The Detroit News* and *Detroit Free Press*.

The camp provides an immersive experience that teaches high school students fundamental writing and reporting skills while focusing on issues impacting their peers and neighborhoods. Most importantly, they'll receive the tools and confidence to write about issues that matter to them and their communities. With access to some of the top editors, journalists and photographers in Detroit, students also gain mentors who can guide them to future internship and job opportunities.

We are excited to continue our partnership with Planet Detroit, a nonprofit news outlet that covers important stories about environmental, public health and social justice topics in Detroit. Each day, students will learn from journalists covering these beats and participate in interactive workshops and real-world reporting exercises.

Journalism Camp 2025 students at Wayne State University. Photo by photojournalism coach Elaine Cromie

Publication Opportunities

Over the two weeks, students will report and write a story focused on an environmental, health or equity topic they choose. They will also be paired with an Editing Coach to receive feedback and one-on-one editing. On the last day, students will share their stories with the group.

Each student will have their article published online at www.planetdetroit.org and www.detroitwritingroom.com.

Articles will also be printed in the 7th edition of *Perspectives Magazine*, an annual print publication produced by students in our journalism and photography camps. Student articles will also be entered for Society of Professional Journalist Detroit Awards.

Students Who Attend Will Receive:

- A welcome package with writing supplies, T-shirt, water bottle, press pass and "A Newshound's Guide to Student Journalism"
- Daily lunch and snacks
- Daily parking pass or ride-share transportation stipend
- A certificate of completion
- Copies of *Perspectives Magazine*
- Invitations to a *Perspectives Magazine* Launch Party at Playground Detroit in November 2026
- Free tickets to select Detroit Writing Room workshops and events throughout the year

A Bonus for the College Bound

Our coaches also help write letters of recommendation for college, scholarships, internships and more! We're proud to share our former students have been accepted to the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Wayne State University, Northwestern University, Howard University, Texas A&M University, University of Florida, Indiana University, Dartmouth College and other schools to study journalism, communications, English and more.

Camp Dates:
July 6-17, 2026
Weekdays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location:
Wayne State University's
Journalism Institute for Media Diversity

Cost:
$599 total for 2 weeks

Scholarship Opportunities:
Students who attend a Detroit high school or live in Detroit can attend the camp free of charge. Scholarships are also available for students with financial need. These scholarships are made possible by www.coachingdetroit-forward.org donors and sponsors, including www.kresge.org, www.automotivepressassociation.net and www.elcentralmedia.com.

The deadline:
Apply by May 1, 2026. Space is limited to 25 students, and admission is rolling. Apply at https://www.detroitwritingroom.com/journalism-camp

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EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS
BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF GREATER DETROIT

Super Bowl XL - 2006 - Detroit - Unforgettable after 20 Years

By Michael Alberts for EL CENTRAL | Photos by Michael Alberts and Dan Graschuck

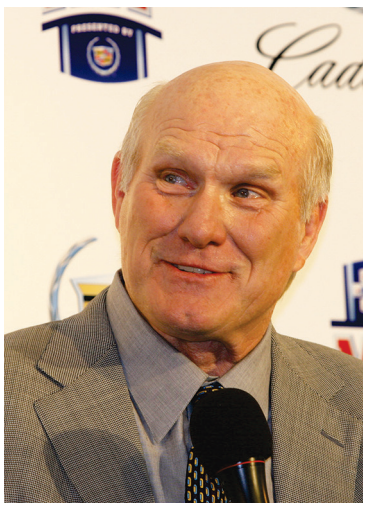
It seems impossible that twenty years have passed since Detroit hosted Super Bowl XL. The mayor was Kilpatrick,the governor was Granholm, and Ford Field was three years old. Detroit rolled out the red carpet and showcased world-class hospitality. Pre-game music with Dr. John, India Arie, John Legend, Aretha Franklin, Joss Stone, and Stevie Wonder. The halftime show, featuring Mick Jagger and the Rolling Stones was epic. The pregame show was dominated by Detroit "Motown" talent, and the halftime show featured British talent.

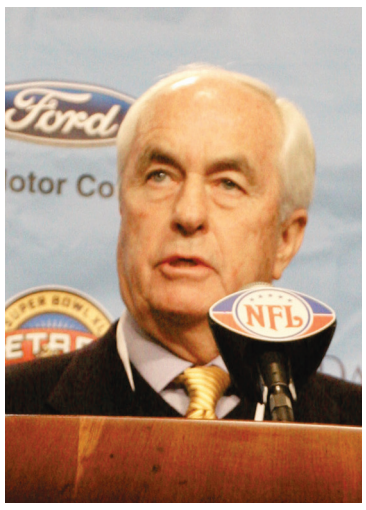
The Steelers defeated the Seahawks 21 - 10. The game was outstanding, with the stands heavily salted with the "Terrible Towels" of the Steelers. The outcome saw Mackenzie High School's Jerome Bettis, aka THE BUS, earn a RING. Super Bowl XVI at the Silver Dome in 1982 proved that a city in the North could host a comfortable venue for the game. Super Bowl XL in 2006 let Detroit shine, display its talent, architecture, downtown, and culture. Roger Penske chaired the host committee, and the rest is history.

Super Bowl LX is Sunday, February 8. Kickoff 6:30 p.m. Seattle Seahawks vs. New England Patriots in San Francisco, California.

EL CENTRAL Photo Contest: Name the Sports Celebrities

Above: Name the sports icons from Detroit at Fox Theater in this photo from 2006 *- Be the first to correctly name all (or the most of) the sports icons in this photo and win prizes, including an authentic EL CENTRAL coffee mug and dinner for two at Taqueria Mi Pueblo Restaurant in Southwest Detroit! Submit entires by noon, Saturday, February 6, 2026 to info@elcentralmedia.com or DM message @ elcentralmedia via Facebook.*





Pro Wrestling Returns to Taqueria El Rey

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS SPORTS

Sports Editor: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

Photos by Alan Haugabook

International Bigtime Wrestling (IBW) returns pro wrestling to Taqueria El Rey, on Sunday, February 22nd, with doors opening at 3 pm and bell time at 4pm.

Making his long awaited return, the 3rd generation superstar Malcolm Monroe III "The Process" MM3 (pictured in center in ad).

Champions Cesar Ashur and the Mightee BoJack "The Den"!! (holding belts), look to defend their title

Upcoming Salita Promotions Pro Boxing Events

Early Signs Of Spring

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS
Pateando la No. 5
SPORTS

David Levine
EL CENTRAL

Even before the Detroit Tigers have pitchers and catchers report to Florida and the winter sports reach their playoffs, Detroit City FC has started preseason. Coach Danny Dichio saw a lot of familiar faces at the Clubhouse in downtown Detroit when the team began preparations for the 2026 season. There will also be plenty of new signings to integrate and a new top assistant on the coaching staff.

Phillip Dos Santos has joined the coaching staff on a two year contract. He has been the manager and general manager of Valour FC, a Canadian Professional League club based in Manitoba. He has also served as an assistant in both MLS and the USL Championship over the past ten years and was part of Canada's youth international coaching setup before moving into the professional ranks. Dos Santos will bring another experienced voice to the DCFC coach staff.

Dichio and Dos Santos will be taking their new partnership on the road for preseason this week. DCFC travels to Florida for three games. They open what will eventually be a seven game preseason slate with a match against USL newcomers Sporting Jacksonville. As an expansion team, they will be an unknown quantity. DCFC can have no preconceptions and will be able to focus solely on their fitness and team chemistry.

The club will take a significantly bigger step up in competition when they square off against FC Cincinnati of MLS on Saturday. The Ohio team has finished in the top half of the league consistently. They have a couple of big name players like US international defender Miles Robinson, Brazilian midfielder Evander, and Togolese striker Kevin Denkey. DCFC wraps up their stay in Florida with a game against USL League One side FC Naples.

The three games will give the club a taste of games at three levels of the football pyramid and move the club forward on the way to the opening game against expansion Brooklyn FC on March 14. After the Florida trip, DCFC will settle back into the Detroit area for games against Oakland University, Toronto FC II of MLS Next Pro, and Western Michigan University. The club wraps up preseason with a games against Forward Madison of USL League One, a team they will face again during the USL Prinx Cup.

US Soccer announced the first round matches for the Lamar Hunt US Open Cup last week. DCFC will play at home against the Michigan Rangers of the NPSL. Eighty teams will start the competition this year with a $1 million prize on offer for the winning team. Last year DCFC won their first match in the Cup, but got thumped by the Chicago Fire of MLS. The competition will be played up to through the quarterfinals prior to the World Cup. For the teams that advance, that will add up to four games to the schedule in the early portion of the season.

Dichio and his coaching staff will have to correct a number of issues from last season. The team started hot and faded over the course of the year. Injuries piled up and the team didn't have the depth required to maintain a challenge for the top of the Eastern Conference. The return to full health of key players like Ben Morris, Rhys Williams and Abdoulaye Diop will be crucial for a good start. Keeping them and the rest of the starters fit for the long haul will determine where they finish this year. It is expected to be the last full year in venerable Keyworth Stadium. Work on AlumniFi Field has started. The future will be here before we know it.

Detroit City FC 2026 Season Schedule

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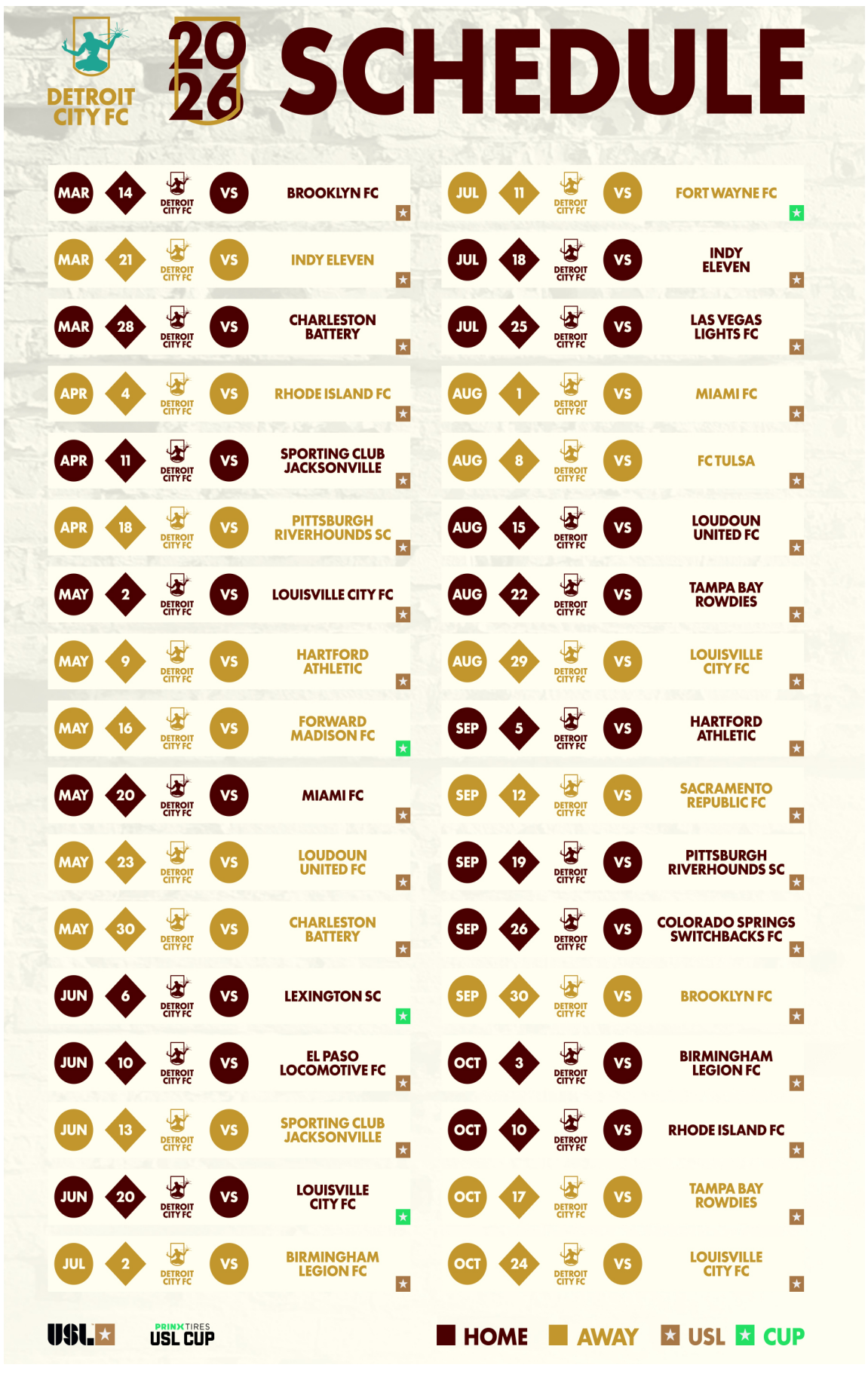
The Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup is coming back to Keyworth Stadium on March 17.
We'll be hosting Michigan Rangers F.C. at 7:30 p.m.

For more information about the first round of the US Open Cup matchup, please visit:
https://tinyurl.com/yxsca8xk


DETROIT CITY FC
2026 SCHEDULE
MAR 14 VS BROOKLYN FC
MAR 21 VS INDY ELEVEN
MAR 28 VS CHARLESTON BATTERY
APR 4 VS RHODE ISLAND FC
APR 11 VS SPORTING CLUB JACKSONVILLE
APR 18 VS PITTSBURGH RIVERHOUNDS SC
MAY 2 VS LOUISVILLE CITY FC
MAY 9 VS HARTFORD ATHLETIC
MAY 16 VS FORWARD MADISON FC
MAY 20 VS MIAMI FC
MAY 23 VS LOUDOUN UNITED FC
MAY 30 VS CHARLESTON BATTERY
JUN 6 VS LEXINGTON SC
JUN 10 VS EL PASO LOCOMOTIVE FC
JUN 13 VS SPORTING CLUB JACKSONVILLE
JUN 20 VS LOUISVILLE CITY FC
JUL 2 VS BIRMINGHAM LEGION FC
JUL 11 VS FORT WAYNE FC
JUL 18 VS INDY ELEVEN
JUL 25 VS LAS VEGAS LIGHTS FC
AUG 1 VS MIAMI FC
AUG 8 VS FC TULSA
AUG 15 VS LOUDOUN UNITED FC
AUG 22 VS TAMPA BAY ROWDIES
AUG 29 VS LOUISVILLE CITY FC
SEP 5 VS HARTFORD ATHLETIC
SEP 12 VS SACRAMENTO REPUBLIC FC
SEP 19 VS PITTSBURGH RIVERHOUNDS SC
SEP 26 VS COLORADO SPRINGS SWITCHBACKS FC
SEP 30 VS BROOKLYN FC
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OCT 10 VS RHODE ISLAND FC
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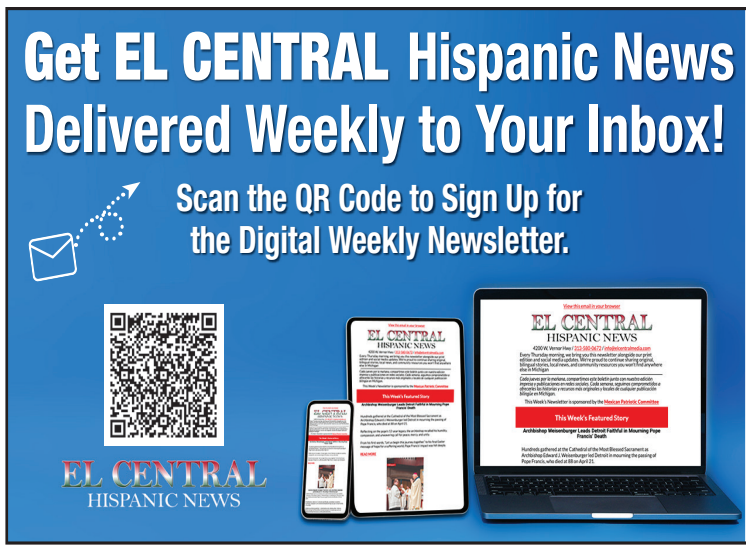
HISPANIC NEWS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EDITORIAL OPINION/ OPINIÓN EDITORIAL

Guest Opinion:

The 2025-26 "No Kings" Movement: The Fourth American Revolution

By Dr. Jose Cuello

Today's "No Kings" Movement is the fourth political revolution in the troubled history of democracy in the United States.

The First American Revolution, the War for American Independence from England of 1776-1783 was the first "No Kings" movement in the nation's history. It was led by rich merchants and rich planters who refused to pay the King's taxes.

The Founding Fathers set up a democracy to benefit their own independent Nobility of Wealth. The lofty idealistic Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights applied only to them. The first "No Kings" movement protected the early American 1%, not only from the king, but from the popular masses they feared would turn into violent mobs against their power.

All groups in society who were not English American men with property were defined as unqualified to vote or hold office. Slaves, Native Americans, Mexicans and the immigrant Irish and Chinese were treated as not fully human to be exploited as livestock.

The Second American Revolution, the Civil War of 1861-1865, was a vicious war between the two ruling groups that made up the new Nobility of Wealth. With No Kings involved, the wealthy rulers of the new nation proceeded to sacrifice 625,000 human beings, mostly commoners who fought under the horrific conditions of the first modern war with heavy artillery.

The winners, the rich industrialists, bankers, and merchant in the northern states got a strong central government that favored a free-trade, unregulated modern industrial economy that exploited "free" workers of all kinds.

The losers, the rich, plantation owners wanted their individual states to separate from the Union to preserve their slave-based -cotton economy.

The Northern victory created the myth that the Civil War was waged to Free the Slaves. The former slaves were soon deprived of their freedom by White Supremacist Jim Crow legislation.

Democracy continued to be right of elite White men to vote, hold office and exercise a brutal power over the working classes. The economy of unregulated greed led to the rise of the Robber Barons who created powerful corporations after the Civil War. They began the massive corporate exploitation of the nation's natural resources by sacrificing the new waves of immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe.

American elites sacrificed more American commoners in World War I and World War II

struggles among European political leaders. The profits of war led to unregulated speculation that almost wiped our capitalism in the Great Depression. Hoovervilles of Hobos filled the American empty spaces.

It was finally that an American president Franklin Delano Roosevelt took radical measures to implement the principle of the Common Good, an idea championed by our contemporary award-winning economist, Robert Reich.

The oppressed group continued to struggle against White racism and wealth.

The Third American Revolution, the 20th Century Civil Rights Movement, peaked from approximately 1950 to 1970. The centuries-long struggle of African Americans now created a permanent challenge to the ideology of White Male Supremacy that has ruled the nation from the first "No Kings" movement.

African Americans gave birth to the idea that the United States is a multicultural society.

Black Power became Black is Beautiful, the NAACP, and Black Lives Matter. The many other suppressed classes leaped forward to claim their own legal rights to equality of opportunity to social mobility.

White, older, rich, men have led the opposition to what has become known as DEI (diversity, equality and inclusion). They are supported by a large minority of Americans who enjoy the racial superiority of being White.

The Super Rich of the modern 1% depends on a wealthy middle class of financial, legal and technical experts to implement new policies of unregulated oppression. Over the last 50 years, this powerful conspiracy created "The Swamp" of political corruption. The gap between the super-rich and the rest of us has never been greater.

The Fourth American Revolution: The People's First "No King" Movement, 2025 - Donald Trump is the ultimate burst of the bubble of greed that has disintegrated the political, economic and social fabric of American society.

Trump is the Mad Pretend King of the World. Without personally firing a shot himself, he has murdered and terrorized millions of people on the scale of Stalin and Hitler.

He has won two elections because the electoral system has been corrupted. He appeals to a variety of special interest groups that benefit from the hierarchies of power. He is the God-sent, evangelical-approved Messiah cult-leader who promises a quick solution to the perfect storm of crises facing us.

The People's "No Kings" Movement has been led by young political activists, most notably, the organizers of INDIVISIBLE that has united the nation's thousands of human rights groups into a massive popular movement.

The movement has grown from 3 million protesters in a "Hands Off" rally in April 2025, to

5 million for the first "No Kings" protest in June, and 7 million for the second "No Kings" demonstration in October of 2025.

The Minnesota popular uprising against the ICE occupation and terrorization of Minneapolis, particular the murder of two White citizens, has set off a chain of daily anti-ICE protests throughout the nation.

INDIVISIBLE leaders expect 9 million persons to participate in a national Walkout on March 28, 2028. Everyone is asked to drop out for a day and not go to work, school, or the shopping center.

The American People's "No Kings" Revolution is part of a global pattern of uprisings against Trump's brutal dictator buddies.

We are living in unprecedented times when the once impossible is taking place. Climate Change is becoming the ultimate threat to humanity. The rich will finish eating the rest of us if we do not stop them.

El Pueblo Unido Jamas Sera Vencido!/ The People United Will Never Be Defeated!

Opinions in this column are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Editor

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Opinión de un invitado:

El movimiento "Sin Reyes" de 2025-26: La Cuarta Revolución Americana

Por Dr. Jose Cuello

El movimiento actual "Sin Reyes" es la cuarta revolución política en la turbulenta historia de la democracia en Estados Unidos.

La Primera Revolución Americana, la Guerra de Independencia de Estados Unidos contra Inglaterra de 1776-1783, fue el primer movimiento "Sin Reyes" en la historia de la nación. Fue liderado por ricos comerciantes y terratenientes que se negaron a pagar los impuestos del rey.

Los Padres Fundadores establecieron una democracia para beneficiar a su propia nobleza adinerada. La elevada y idealista Declaración de Independencia, la Constitución y la Declaración de Derechos solo se aplicaban a ellos. El primer movimiento "Sin Reyes" protegió al 1% de la población estadounidense, no solo del rey, sino también de las masas populares que temían que se convirtieran en turbas violentas contra su poder.

Todos los grupos de la sociedad que no eran hombres angloamericanos con propiedades fueron considerados no aptos para votar o ejercer cargos públicos. Los esclavos, los nativos americanos, los mexicanos y los inmigrantes irlandeses y chinos fueron tratados como seres infrahumanos, explotados como ganado.

La Segunda Revolución Americana, la Guerra Civil de 1861-1865, fue una guerra cruel entre los dos grupos dominantes que conformaban la nueva nobleza adinerada. Sin la intervención de reyes, los ricos gobernantes de la nueva nación sacrificaron a 625.000 seres humanos, en su mayoría gente común que luchó en las horribles condiciones de la primera guerra moderna con artillería pesada.

Los vencedores, los ricos industriales, banqueros y comerciantes de los estados del norte, obtuvieron un gobierno central fuerte que favorecía una economía industrial moderna de libre comercio y sin regulaciones, que explotaba a los trabajadores "libres" de todo tipo.

Los perdedores, los ricos terratenientes, querían que sus estados se separaran de la Unión para preservar su economía algodonera basada en la esclavitud.

La victoria del Norte creó el mito de que la Guerra Civil se libró para liberar a los esclavos. Los antiguos esclavos pronto fueron privados de su libertad por la legislación de segregación racial de Jim Crow.

La democracia siguió siendo un derecho de los hombres blancos de élite para votar, ocupar cargos públicos y ejercer un poder brutal sobre las clases trabajadoras.
La economía de la codicia sin regulaciones condujo al surgimiento de los magnates que crearon poderosas corporaciones después de la Guerra Civil. Comenzaron la explotación masiva de los recursos naturales de la nación, sacrificando a las nuevas oleadas de inmigrantes del sur y este de Europa. Las élites estadounidenses sacrificaron a más ciudadanos comunes en la Primera y la Segunda Guerra Mundial, en conflictos entre líderes políticos europeos. Las ganancias de la guerra llevaron a una especulación descontrolada que casi aniquiló el capitalismo durante la Gran Depresión. Los campamentos de indigentes (Hoovervilles) llenaron los espacios vacíos de Estados Unidos.

Finalmente, el presidente estadounidense Franklin Delano Roosevelt tomó medidas radicales para implementar el principio del Bien Común, una idea defendida por nuestro economista contemporáneo galardonado, Robert Reich.

El grupo oprimido continuó luchando contra el racismo y la riqueza de los blancos.

La Tercera Revolución Americana, el Movimiento por los Derechos Civiles del siglo XX, alcanzó su apogeo entre 1950 y 1970. La lucha centenaria de los afroamericanos creó un desafío permanente a la ideología de la supremacía masculina blanca que ha gobernado la nación desde el primer movimiento "Sin Reyes".

Los afroamericanos dieron origen a la idea de que Estados Unidos es una sociedad multicultural.

El Poder Negro se transformó en "Lo Negro es Hermoso", la NAACP y Black Lives Matter. Las muchas otras clases oprimidas dieron un paso adelante para reclamar sus propios derechos legales a la igualdad de oportunidades y a la movilidad social.

Hombres blancos, mayores y ricos han liderado la oposición a lo que se conoce como DEI (diversidad, equidad e inclusión). Cuentan con el apoyo de una gran minoría de estadounidenses que disfrutan de la superioridad racial de ser blancos.

Los súper ricos del 1% dependen de una clase media adinerada de expertos financieros, legales y técnicos para implementar nuevas políticas de opresión sin regulación. Durante los últimos 50 años, esta poderosa conspiración creó el "pantano" de la corrupción política. La brecha entre los súper ricos y el resto de nosotros nunca ha sido mayor.

La Cuarta Revolución Americana: El Primer Movimiento Popular "Sin Rey", 2025 - Donald Trump es la máxima expresión de la burbuja de la avaricia que ha desintegrado el tejido político, económico y social de la sociedad estadounidense.

Trump es el rey impostor y demente del mundo. Sin disparar un solo tiro, ha asesinado y aterrorizado a millones de personas, a la escala de Stalin y Hitler.

Ha ganado dos elecciones porque el sistema electoral ha sido corrompido. Atrae a diversos grupos de interés que se benefician de las jerarquías de poder. Es el líder de culto mesiánico, enviado por Dios y aprobado por los evangélicos, que promete una solución rápida a la tormenta perfecta de crisis que enfrentamos. El Movimiento Popular "Sin Reyes" ha sido liderado por jóvenes activistas políticos, entre los que destacan los organizadores de INDIVISIBLE, que ha unido a miles de grupos de derechos humanos de todo el país en un movimiento popular masivo.

El movimiento ha crecido de 3 millones de manifestantes en una concentración bajo el lema "¡Manos fuera!" en abril de 2025, a 5 millones en la primera protesta "¡No a los reyes!" en junio, y a 7 millones en la segunda manifestación "¡No a los reyes!" en octubre de 2025.

El levantamiento popular en Minnesota contra la ocupación y el terror de ICE en Minneapolis, en particular el asesinato de dos ciudadanos blancos, ha desencadenado una cadena de protestas diarias contra ICE en todo el país.

Los líderes de INDIVISIBLE esperan que 9 millones de personas participen en una huelga nacional el 28 de marzo de 2028. Se pide a todos que se ausenten de sus trabajos, escuelas o centros comerciales durante un día.

La Revolución "¡No a los reyes!" del pueblo estadounidense forma parte de un patrón global de levantamientos contra los brutales dictadores aliados de Trump.

Vivimos tiempos sin precedentes en los que lo que antes parecía imposible se está haciendo realidad. El cambio climático se está convirtiendo en la mayor amenaza para la humanidad. Los ricos nos devorarán si no los detenemos.

¡El pueblo unido jamás será vencido!/ The People United Will Never Be Defeated!

Las opiniones expresadas en esta columna no son necesariamente las del editor o redactor

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SPECIAL WORLD'S CULTURES

Chile

Chile and its textil art

Chile is the longest country in the world and one of the tricontinental countries along with France, since its government is based on the South American mainland, with other territories on Easter Island in Oceania and in Antarctica, it also boasts a rich indigenous textile tradition.

Chilean textiles feature geometric patterns and figures of both animals and humans.

The textile art of the Andean and Aymara indigenous peoples radiates vibrant colors, as well as animal figures, pompoms, and other distinctive elements of their culture.

The Mapuche people, the indigenous people of southern Chile, have a rich tradition of weaving textiles. The most common figures are triangles and rhombuses, as well as colored bands that transition from one shade to another, enriching the designs on each garment and displaying symbols that tell a complete worldview.

However, the art and textile industry in Chile is not limited to indigenous cultures. There are also designers who seek to create garments that reflect their concern for the situation in the Atacama Desert, home to one of the world's largest clothing dumps, with over 39,000 tons of used clothing.

Taking this issue as inspiration, sisters Antonia and Daniela Salamé created their brand, Isla Bonita Clothing, showcasing garment designs that explore details through comfortable pieces. The textile industry in Chile thus traces its origins back to the 19th century and continues to this day.

Sigue cada semana en
EL CENTRAL Hispanic News
ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,
by Mariana Ayón RV

Atacama Desert

The Atacama Desert, covering 105,000 km², is located in northern Chile, stretching from the Pacific Ocean to the Andes Mountains for almost 1,600 km. It borders Bolivia and Argentina along the Andes.

One explanation for the intense aridity of the Atacama Desert is the blocking of clouds from the east by the Andes Mountains, resulting in only breezes and clouds coming from the west, from the Pacific.

Despite its vast size, the Atacama offers a variety of experiences, from astronomical observatories—as its climate renders large areas of land uninhabitable, creating zones of darkness—to visits to the mirror-like expanses of the Atacama Salt Flat, the crystal formations on the land, the Valley of the Moon, and San Pedro de Puna.

We cannot forget the Red Lagoon in Atacama, a lagoon with striking red waters. In contrast, there are also Dunes and, of course, the Giant of Atacama, also known as the Giant of Tarapacá, a pre-Hispanic geoglyph 119 meters long, which is the largest in the world.

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

Chile

Chile y sus textiles

Chile, el país más largo del mundo y uno de los países tricontinentales junto a Francia. Chile tiene su administración gubernamental en el territorio continental de Suramérica, con otros territorios en la Isla de Pascua de Oceanía y la Antártica.

Chile, cuenta con una tradición indígena textil con diseños de patrones en grecas, así como figuras tanto de animales, como humanas en sus tejidos.

El arte textil de los pueblos indígenas andinos y aimaras irradia colores vibrantes, así como figuras de animales, pompones y otras particularidades de su cultura.

El pueblo Mapuche, el pueblo indígena del sur de Chile, cuenta con una rica tradición de elaboración de textiles de telar. Las figuras más encontradas son los triángulos y rombos, así como las franjas de color que van de un tono a otro enriqueciendo así los diseños en cada prenda donde se muestran los símbolos que narran una cosmovisión completa.

Mas, el arte y la industria textil en Chile no se queda solamente en las culturas indígenas, sino también existen diseñadores que buscan crear prendas de vestir que muestren la preocupación por la situación en el desierto de Atacama, donde se encuentra uno de los más grandes tiraderos de ropa, con más de 39,000 toneladas de ropa usada.

Llevando esta problemática a ser una inspiración, las hermanas Antonia y Daniela Salamé crearon su marca de Isla Bonita Clothing, donde muestran diseños de prendas que exploran los detalles a través de piezas cómodas.

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Desierto de Atacama

El desierto de Atacama con una extensión de 105 000 km², se encuentra ubicado en el norte de Chile, y se extiende a lo largo desde el Océano Pacífico hasta la cordillera andina alcanzando casi los 1,600 km. En la parte de la cordillera andina colinda con Bolivia y Argentina.

Para entender el fenómeno de intensa aridez del desierto de Atacama, se da como una de las explicaciones el bloqueo de nubes provenientes del este por parte de la cordillera Andina, de ahí que sólo cuente con la brisa y nubes que provienen del oeste, del Pacífico.

Atacama siendo tan grande ofrece varias experiencias que van desde los observatorios astronómicos pues dado su clima grandes extensiones de tierra son inhabitables permitiendo así zonas de oscuridad, así como las visitas a los espejos del Salar de Atacama, las formaciones de cristales sobre la tierra, el Valle de la Luna, San Pedro de Puna.

No podemos olvidar la Laguna roja en Atacama, una laguna que sus aguas son de un color rojo; en contraste también se encuentran Dunas y, por su puesto, al Gigante de Atacama, también conocido como el Gigante de Tarapacá, un geoglifo prehispánico de 119 metros de longitud, mismo que es el más grande del mundo.

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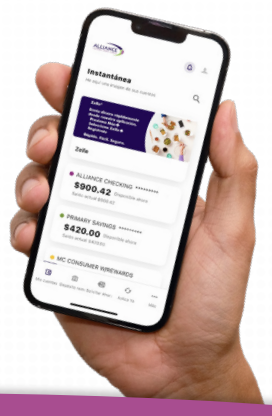

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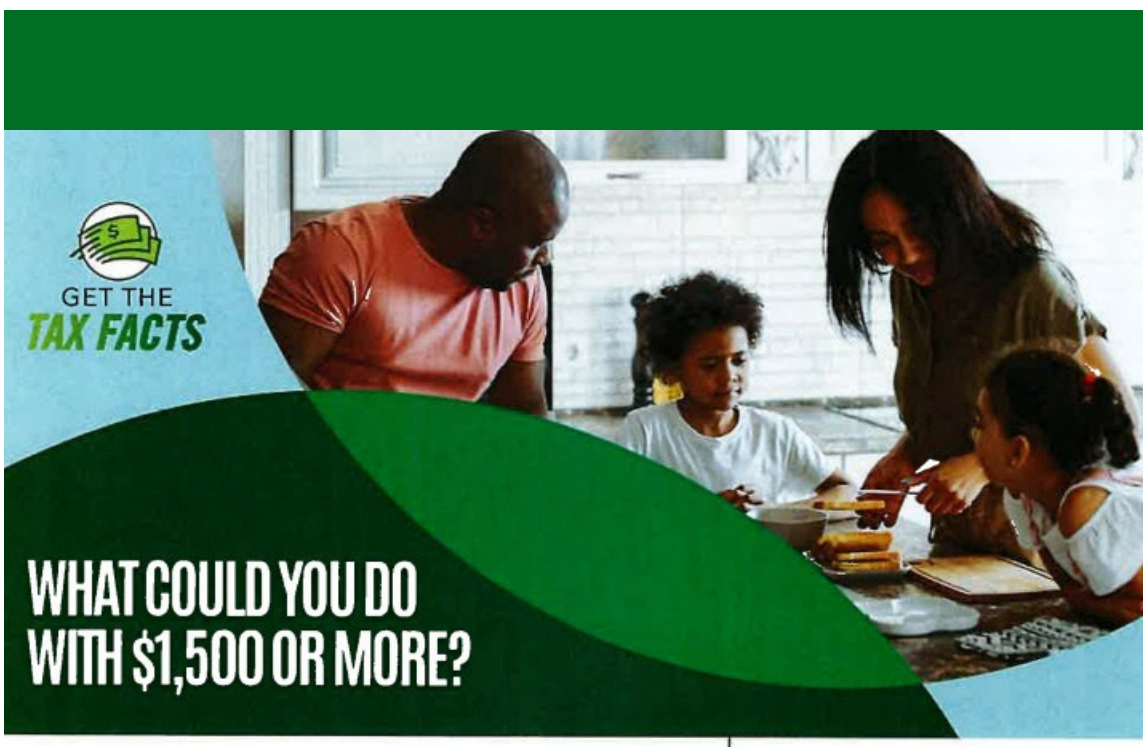

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